

Text Essay Assignments for Reading 91/92

from *Improving Reading Skills*

Harrigan, Fall 2008

Essay Assignments from the textbook, *Improving Reading Skills* are given below. Complete the segments after each essay, as listed below. You may write in your book and tear out the pages to turn in—the book’s pages are perforated for this purpose. Or, you may answer on your own paper, including the headings of each segment of your answers so that they are easily corrected.

1. “Shop Like a Man” p 189

A. Determining the Main Idea and Purpose—all questions.

B. Comprehending the Main Idea—all questions.

Also, do “Comprehension Score—complete this for your percent. It tells you how well you understand the essay.

E. Understanding Vocabulary-all questions.

2. “Sedated by Stuff” p 203

A. Determining the Main Idea And Purpose—all questions.

B. Comprehending the Main Idea—all questions.

Also, do “Comprehension Score—complete this for your percent. It tells you how well you understand the essay.

C. Distinguishing Between Main Idea and Supporting Details

F. Understanding Vocabulary—all words

3. “Fatherless Boys” p 365

Answer the following questions, not ones from the book.

A. What is the author’s main point? (write a complete sentence telling what he wants the reader to know about fatherless boys).

B. Give three supporting details that the author uses to support his main idea—his contention.

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4. “La Vida Loca” p 79

A. Determining the Main Idea And Purpose—all questions.

B. Comprehending the Main Idea—all questions.

Also, do “Comprehension Score—complete this for your percent. It tells you how well you understand the essay.

D. Understanding Vocabulary—all words

5. *On Course* Text Assignment 1 (from New Student Seminar class) pg. 95-97 on Effective Reading, Edition 3. (May be different pages in later editions.) 1. Find and list five reading strategies you have not frequently used in the past. 2. Choose three of these strategies and write a paragraph about how you think that changing habits to use these three specific strategies may help you understand or read better.

6. “Did I Save Lives or Engage in Racial Profiling?” p71

A. Determining the Main Idea and Purpose—all questions.

B. Comprehending the Main Idea—all questions.

Also, do “Comprehension Score—complete this for your percent. It tells you how well you understand the essay.

C. Locating Supporting Details—all three

D. Interpreting Meaning—both

E. Understanding Vocabulary—all words

7. “What Hath Goth Wrought?” p 427

A. Determining the Main Idea and Purpose—all questions.

B. Comprehending the Main Idea—all questions.

Also, do “Comprehension Score—complete this for your percent. It tells you how well you understand the essay.

C. Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion—all

D. Making Inferences

E. Understanding Vocabulary—all

F. Paraphrase Exercise

8. **5. *On Course* Text Assignment 2 (from New Student Seminar class)**

Summarize each of the 20 strategies in the “Effective Writing” segment after reading these pages (199-122 in Edition 3—may be different in later editions.) Write only a couple summary sentences to include the most important and pertinent information. Be thorough.